

WARRENBURG, Mo., Saturday.—Interest in the celebrated Oglesby damage suit against the Missouri Pacific Railway has been greatly intensified in the minds of the people of Missouri since the contempt proceedings instituted by the Supreme Court of Missouri against J. M. Shepherd, editor of the Standard-Examiner, and the action of that august body in fining Mr. Shepherd \$527 for writing an editorial condemning the Supreme Court in no uncertain language for reversing the Oglesby case without remanding. This was the vital section of what the editor wrote—

"The victory of the railroad has been complete and the corruption of the Supreme Court has been thorough. It has reversed and nullified itself in this case until no sane man can have any other opinion but that the judges who conceived the opinion in the Oglesby case have been bought in the interest of the railroad. What hope have the people of Missouri for justice and equitable laws in bodies where such open venality is practiced and how long will they stand it?"

The corporations have long owned the Legislature, now they own the Supreme Court, and the citizen who applies to either for justice against the corporations gets nothing."

No case before the Supreme Court has caused as much interest and no opinion has been handed down with so much of favor and condemnation at the hands of the persons familiar with all the circumstances connected with the case. Persons whose sobriety and conservatism have been instrumental in quieting the strong impulses of the public to prevent to their feelings and expressed themselves freely that Oglesby has not received justice in the Court's decision.

The action of the Supreme Court in fining a citizen who dared to voice his sentiments has only added fuel to the fire.

On the morning of December 11, 1902, a Missouri Pacific train left Kansas City for St. Louis. Near Little Blue station, seven miles east of Independence, the train was wrecked. The front car, next to the engine, had broken in two.

The rear end of the car was on the track coupled to the next car behind. Its sill had broken in two. The broken ends had ploughed into the track, forming a barrier against which the rear cars crashed and broke, demolishing the train of eighteen cars.

"Rube" Oglesby, a brickman, was found under one of the wrecked cars, one limb badly mangled and his flesh torn in a frightful manner.

For two hours the injured boy was allowed to remain under the wreckage before the limbs that pinned him to the rails were released.

Oglesby was taken to the Missouri Pacific Hospital, where he remained for eight months, lingering between life and death.

The right limb was first amputated below the knee. In seven weeks it was found necessary to perform another operation and cut it off above the knee. Later it was found necessary as a last resort to amputate the limb just below the hip joint.

After Oglesby's recovery from the operation, he was under constant medical attention for three years.

FATHER BUOYS SUIT.—One year after Oglesby's injury his father brought suit against the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company in the Johnson County Circuit Court for \$25,000 damages, alleging that the wreck was caused by the company's negligence in placing in the train a car which was "runt for service, unsound, old, worn and out of repair, and the timbers of which were decayed, rotten and worm eaten."

Young Oglesby was under age.

A verdict for \$15,000 was rendered in Oglesby's favor, and this judgment has been three times reaffirmed by the higher courts.

But on June 15, 1903, over seven years after the case was decided, the Missouri Pacific Court of Appeals affirmed the judgment after it had twice been affirmed with the concurrence of six judges—Macfarlane, Greer, Burgess, Robinson, Marshall, and Judge Robinson.

It was affirmed by the majority of the court, and after five judges—Vallentyne, Greer, Robinson, Marshall, and Judge Robinson, on the last decision of the case, voted to reverse it, holding that the case was an error.

It was this decision that provoked the ire of the Warrenburg editor. The sentiment of the people of Warrenburg and Johnson County is largely in sympathy with him. While they do not indorse his editorial as a whole and many think his charges were too severe, without proof, they feel that Oglesby has not received justice in the higher courts. Shepherd is admired for having the nerve to challenge the verdicts. His backing comes from the leading business and professional interests of this city, respectively.

Gossip has it that the Missouri Pacific had several times offered Oglesby a liberal compromise, but he refused to accept it, and he has not been able to get the railroad to confer with the officials of the railroad, hoping to obtain a reasonable settlement. On this occasion the company offered Oglesby \$33, which was an allowance of \$2 a day during his sickness and \$75 for the lost limb and certain injuries. The proposition was not considered by Mr. Oglesby.

LIVED AS HERMIT 30 YEARS.—Tippecanoe's Grandson Dies and His Life Mystery Passes Away with Him.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Saturday.—The death of William Henry Harrison Thornton, of Ellettsville, known for many years in the community as "the man of mystery," has caused a persistent search for the causes that led to the hermit life of the old man, but the most energetic in the quest were forced to abandon it and confess that the secret had been buried with him.

His sisters came to him in the last days of his illness they said it was understood in the family that he had been disappointed in love, but the information did not come from him, and if it were true they did not even know the name of the woman upon whom he had placed his affections.

Thornton was a grandson of William Henry Harrison, President of the United States; a cousin of Benjamin Harrison, and also a relative of Chief Justice Shims of the Supreme Court.

He went to Ellettsville in 1872 and for three months boarded in the house of a farmer, but refused to say whether he had loved or in any way refer to his former life. For thirty years he had lived as a recluse in a lonely cabin.

Hundreds Are Rushing to Claim Estate of Colonel Cline, Who Died Worth Millions

Wonder Grows in Chicago at Vast Extent of Miser's Property.

FEAR OF COMPLICATIONS

Legal Embarrassments Are Expected.

Even if No Genuine Contest.

TRAITS OF THE AGED MAN

Was Almost a Dandy Until His Later Years, When He Gave Up His Friends.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.]

CHICAGO, Ill., Saturday.—By one of the commonest forms of human experience the attention which was denied during his life to Colonel George T. Cline, the eccentric miser, has been aroused by the discovery of the wealth he left behind when he died a few weeks ago. This strange hoarder of a vast fortune sleeps in a graveyard near Frederick, Md., his boyhood home, while the beneficiaries of his thrift are digging out cords of dusty papers and documents in an effort to learn just how much wealth he had accumulated.

Enough has already been revealed to show that the estate will be worth \$5,000,000. It may run far in excess of that amount. The trustees of the property, who have been for weeks pulling time-worn and discolored documents from their hiding places and scrutinizing them, are treated to new surprises almost daily. It is believed that the great bulk of the estate has been accumulated by means of the silent witnesses, but bits of farm property and city real estate are still being found. Until the last box of accumulated papers of years has been searched the whole story will not have been told.

Claimants Springing Up.

Hundreds of persons throughout the United States and Canada have suddenly come to believe they were related to the aged miser, and that they were entitled to a share of his inheritance. They live backward about making their views known to the trustees. Letters are received every day from men and women who hope to establish a valid claim to a part of the property.

Others, according to the trustees, are doomed to disappointment. A property decreed will be in the hands of the executors. This document makes specific provisions for a division of the estate among immediate relatives, each of whom is mentioned by name.

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